

Public Works Center saves military funds through demolition



Denise Emsley photo

A cinderblock-housing unit at Schofield Barracks is brought down in one day. Housing at Schofield Barracks, which is past its life-cycle, is being demolished to create new open space for Army residents.

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It's 7 a.m. and crewmembers from Navy Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor's (PWC) transportation department review their plans and ready their equipment for another busy day providing demolition services to their customers. This experienced team of professionals has established a proven record of performance. They provide customers with a one-stop shop that includes all of the necessary elements to execute and successfully accomplish a demolition project. "PWC is committed to being the premier provider of demolition services for DoD customers in Hawaii," said Capt. Jennifer Mustain, commanding officer, PWC. "We look to maximize the use of our customers' limited funds for demolition."

In today's fiscal reality of limited resources, demolition has become very important. Buildings beyond repair cost the DoD millions of dollars to retain and, in many instances, are not suitable for current and/or future military needs. As a result, the DoD has placed renewed emphasis on reducing infrastructure and the associated facility maintenance costs to offset its declining budget. PWC has stepped up to help with this effort by providing its customers with demolition choices. The center has a variety of building demolition services available including: project cost estimates, historic preservation evaluation and consultation, site preparation, safety oversight, site security, environmental assessment and abatement, processing of

recyclable materials, disconnection of utilities, demolition of a structure, and surface filling, leveling and mulching. "Our talented team of demolition experts includes: vehicle and engineering equipment operators, environmental abatement and hazardous waste specialists, utility workers, and environmental compliance and safety specialists," said Willie Tucker, PWC transportation operations director. "Everyone plays an important role in making the project happen regardless of the job's size." PWC's demolition program began in 1985 with the removal of obsolete structures at Naval Air Station, Barbers Point. Since then, center crews have demolished various concrete structures and foundations, a combination of wood and concrete housing

units (one- and two-story) and a variety of metal structures. In August 2000, PWC demolition crews cleared 122 Coral Rose housing units at a cost of \$4.9 million. The center completed this project on schedule and under budget, saving the Navy approximately \$300,000. "The Coral Rose job is a fine example of the center's ability to perform a large demolition project," said Tucker. "The greatest asset we have in continuing to accomplish our projects under budget and ahead of schedule is the professionalism and dedication of our people to be the best money can buy." Currently, center demolition experts are working on two very different projects: one at Naval Magazine, Pearl Harbor and the other at Army Housing, Schofield Barracks. Building 33, a solid concrete, two-story structure, is under demolition at Naval Magazine Westloch. Efforts began in July. Teardown of the building began on Nov. 15, 2000 with an estimated completion date of Feb. 5. However, with everything being completed quicker than estimated, work crews believe the job will be finished by Jan. 23. At Schofield Barracks, PWC crews began demolition of 19 housing structures (94 housing units) in mid-May. As a result of Sept. 11 events and new security measures, three structures remain to be removed. The Army's satisfaction with PWC's demolition efforts translated into more work for its crews when on Sept. 17 they were chosen to remove 30 more structures for

the Army. However, due to security restrictions at Schofield, the project has been placed on hold. PWC began a Navy demolition project at Pearl City Peninsula in December. Environmental crews completed their hazardous removal efforts prior to Christmas. And, on Jan. 7, demolition crews quickly flattened six buildings that comprised the old Pearl City Peninsula Child Care facility. Eleven other housing structures will be demolished during the rest of the month with the project meeting its estimated completion date of January 2002. As a result of careful planning and attention to details, PWC demolition efforts continue to be within budget and on schedule. Customers who select the center as their demolition provider are making the right choice, saving the DoD valuable project dollars. "After evaluating our competitive position against public and private sector demolition providers, we have determined that we are an economically sound choice," said Mustain. "We are committed to providing best-value, high-quality demolition services which meet our customers' expectations." Although constructing a structure takes months and years to complete, bringing one down seems to happen in the blink of an eye. With the right people, equipment, permits, coordination and expertise, demolition can be accomplished easily, efficiently, within budget and on schedule.